

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6222

DEPT PASS AID/OLAB AND AAFLI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN INVITEES TO AFL-CIO CONVENTION

REF: A) STATE 215057 (NOTAL) B) AMMAN 5464

1. DURING COURTESY CALL SEPT 13 TO INTRODUCE NEW CHIEF POL SECTION, SUBJECT OF SAN FRANCISCO AFL-CIO CONF (REF-TEL A) DISCRETELY BROACHED WITH AHID QINTAR, SYG OF JORDAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. QINTAR REPLIED THAT HE NOT YET SURE WHETHER HE WOULD ATTEND, SINCE "WORK DEMANDS" MIGHT KEEP HIM IN AMMAN. HE VOLUNTEERED NO INFO ON SAMI MANSOUR. EMBASSY WILL INFORM AAFLI AS SOON AS MORE SOLID INFO DEVELOPS.

2. FEELINGS AMONT LABOR LEADERS HERE STILL RUFFLED DUE TO STATEMENTS OF U.S. REPS AT GENEVA (REFTEL B). QINTAR, FOR EXAMPLE, MADE PASSING DISAPPOINTED REFERENCE TO FACT THAT AAFLI REPS ACCOMPANIED OFFICIAL U.S. DEL WHEN LATTER WALKED OUT OF GENEVA PROCEEDINGS UPON ADMISSION OF PLO TO OBSERVER STATUS. MOREOVER, AT EMBASSY RECEPTION EARLIER IN WEEK, FORMER MINLAB AND MEMBER OF JORDANIAN GENEVA DELEGATION DR YUSEF ZIHNI SOUGHT OUT LRO TO DISCUSS AAFLI ROLE IN JORDAN. ZIHNI, LONG-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME FRIEND OF AAFLI, STATED IN STRONG TERMS HIS

BELIEF THAT AAFLI SHOULD MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE IN JORDAN FOR TIME BEING, "SINCE MOST OF OUR WORKERS FEEL THAT AAFLI REPRESENTS AMERICAN POLICY, RATHER THAN THE INDEPENDENT POSITION WHICH I KNOW IT HOLDS." HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT AAFLI WOULD BE WORKING AGAINST ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS IN POSTING FULL-TIME AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO AMMAN; AAFLI REP SHOULD BE LOCAL NATIONAL, HE SAID. FYI: ZIHNI ALSO VOLUNTEERED HIS OPINION THAT CAIRO DELEGATION AT GENEVA WAS EAGER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH AAFLI REPS, BUT WAS DETERRED FROM DOING SO BY PLO IMBROGLIO. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT AAFLI WOULD BE WELCOME IN CAIRO AND THAT SUBJECT SHOULD BE BROACHED AGAIN TO EGYPTIANS.

3. AFTER PERIOD OF POST-GENEVA COOLNESS, LOCAL LABOR PERSONALITIES APPARENTLY BEGINNING TO BE RECEPTIVE AGAIN TO EMBASSY CONTACT. AMERICAN, INCLUDING AAFLI REPS', ROLE AT GENEVA STILL SENSITIVE TOPIC, HOWEVER, AND QINTAR'S AND MANSOUR'S ATTITUDES TOWARD SAN FRANCISCO CONF MAY REMAIN AMBIGUOUS FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THUS EMBASSY BELIEVES IT SHOULD NOT GET OVERLY INVOLVED DIRECTLY IN SEEMING TO GOAD JORDANIAN LABOR REPS INTO ATTENDING. PICKERING

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